

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended): An ~~information~~ image processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of print control apparatuses including connected to a color ~~print control apparatus~~ printer and a monochromatic ~~print control apparatus~~ printer, said ~~information~~ image processing apparatus comprising:

[[a]] ~~discrimination unit adapted to discriminate~~ means for discriminating whether ~~print data to be output to any of the~~ each page in a print job consisting of a plurality of ~~print control apparatuses~~ pages is a color [[data]] page or a monochromatic [[data]] page;

[[a]] ~~determination unit adapted to determine~~ means for determining whether the ~~print data~~ each page in the print job is to be output ~~either~~ to the color ~~print control apparatus~~ printer or to the monochromatic ~~print control apparatus~~ printer, based on a discrimination made by said discrimination ~~unit~~ means;

~~a first output unit adapted to, when said determination unit determines that~~ the means for outputting print data ~~is to be output of each page selectively~~ to the color [[print]] printer or to the monochromatic printer based on a determination made by said determination means; ~~control apparatus, output the print data to the color print control apparatus with a designation of a first ejection destination, wherein, when an output~~

destination is changed from the monochromatic print control apparatus to the color print control apparatus; said first output unit outputs a certain page while maintaining the designation of the first ejection destination, if the page is serial to a previously outputted page, and outputs a certain page together with a designation changed from the designation of the first ejection destination, if the page is not serial to the previously outputted page; and

adding means for adding, to the print data output by said output means, an ejection command according to the color or monochromatic printer; and

a second output unit adapted to, when said determination unit determines that the print data is to be output to the monochromatic print control apparatus, output the print data to the monochromatic print control apparatus with a designation of a second ejection destination, wherein, when an output destination is changed from the color print control apparatus to the monochromatic print control apparatus, said second output unit outputs a certain page while maintaining the designation of the second ejection destination, if the page is serial to a previously outputted page, and outputs a certain page together with a designation changed from the designation of the second ejection destination, if the control means for controlling each of the color and monochromatic printers such that an ejection position is changed when a succeeding page is not serial to the previously outputted page, based on the ejection command added by said adding means.

30. - 32. (canceled).

33. (new): An image processing method for use in an image processing apparatus that is connected to a color printer and a monochromatic printer, said method comprising the steps of:

a discriminating step for discriminating whether each page in a print job consisting of a plurality of page is color page or a monochromatic page;

a determination step for determining whether each page in the print job is to be output to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer, based on a discrimination made in said discriminating step;

an output step for outputting print data of each page selectively to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer based on a determination made in said determination step;

an adding step for adding, to the print data output in said output step, an ejection command according to the color or monochromatic printer; and

a control step for controlling each of the color and monochromatic printers such that an ejection position is changed when a succeeding page is not serial to the previously outputted page, based on the ejection command added in said adding step.

34. (new): An image processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the ejection command added by said adding means is a command for shifting the ejection position from one position in a tray to a second position in that same tray.

35. (new): An image processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the ejection command added by said adding means is a command for ejection to another bin.

36. (new): An image processing method according to claim 33, wherein the ejection command added in said adding step is a command for shifting the ejection position from one position in a tray to a second position in that same tray.

37. (new): An image processing method according to claim 33, wherein the ejection command added in said adding step is a command for ejection to another bin.